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All persons are by nature free and independent, and have certain natural and unalienable rights, among which are those of enjoying and defending life and liberty, of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.

-- Article 1, Section 1, New Jersey State Constitution

Rule by Administrative Fiat

By Dave Kopel and Dr. Tim Wheeler

Senator Jon Corzine (NJ) and Rep. Patrick Kennedy (RI) have co-sponsored a bill that would authorize administrative bans on guns, gun accessories, air guns and ammunition. The scheme is similar to the 1970s attempt to ban ammunition by order of the Consumer Product Safety Commission; but this time the Treasury Department would get the gun-banning power.

The unconstitutional Corzine-Kennedy bill also applies to firearms accessories such as laser sights. Pro- and anti-rights activists agree that such sights make it easier to fire accurately under pressure – as in a self-defense situation. Since the anti-gun movement is based on the premise that it is immoral to use guns for self-defense unless you are a government employee, laser sights are anathema to them.

The Corzine-Kennedy bill also applies to air guns, such as the Daisy Red Ryder BB gun.

Not only would the Treasury be empowered to prohibit the manufacture and sale of some or all guns, it would also be empowered to “recall” guns – that is, to confiscate some or all guns currently in private hands, without paying compensation to the owner.

The Treasury, presumably the FBI, would be authorized to take “emergency action” to ban or confiscate guns without having to comply with the administrative procedures that require public comment or public notice before a rule is created.

Ominously, the act could be enforced by private parties. That is, an anti-gun group could sue in a sympathetic court (perhaps in New York City or San Francisco) and a single federal judge could order gun confiscation, prohibit gun

manufacture or do most anything to restrict or eliminate gun ownership.

Putting aside gun policy and the Second Amendment, we face a fundamental question. Since Article 1 of the U.S. Constitution gives “all legislative powers herein granted” to the Congress, why should bureaucrats in the Executive branch be delegated the power to ban guns that Congress has not voted to ban? Clearly the Constitution does not permit Congress to delegate the law-making power to Executive branch agencies such as the CPSC. Moreover such delegation permits Congress to dodge tough decisions, as detailed in David Schoenbrod’s fine book, *Power without Responsibility: How Congress Abuses the People through Delegation*.

The Constitution deliberately makes it hard to enact legislation, requiring the proposed law to be passed by both the House and Senate, and signed by the President (or re-passed by two-thirds vote of each house of Congress over the president’s veto).

By making it difficult to impose new laws the Founders created a system in which liberty would be the norm, and restraint would be the exception. But law making by executive agencies inverts the process. The victim of the new restriction has the difficult burden of trying to get Congress to pass a law to remove the infringement on liberty.

An additional liberty protection implicit in the Constitution’s grant of the law making power to Congress alone is that it can pass only as many laws as the day permits. Delegation, though, enables hundreds of executive branch agencies to make laws even when Congress is adjourned.

Foisting the hard choices onto bureaucrats undermines accountability, since a person who dislikes a congressional vote can vote against the

Congressman in the next election, but no one can vote against a bureaucrat.

For 150 years Congress did not attempt to delegate its law-making power to the executive branch, but when it did the Supreme Court said “no.” In 1935, for example, it unanimously struck down the National Industrial Recovery Act, which granted the power to regulate the entire economy to Pres. F.D. Roosevelt’s National Recovery Administration (*Schechter Poultry Corp. v. United States*).

But soon the court, under intense political pressure from the Roosevelt administration, abandoned its constitutional duty to enforce the separation of powers between the legislative and executive branches. As a result the volume of laws unconstitutionally made by the executive branch (contained in the Code of Federal Regulations) is roughly four times that of the laws constitutionally created by Congress (contained in the U.S. Code).

Several years ago Sen. Sam Brownback (Kan.) and Rep. J.D. Hayworth (Ariz.) proposed legislation to require that no new administrative regulation would go into effect unless Congress voted to implement it. Such legislation would be a gigantic step forward for strict and appropriate enforcement of the Constitution. Just as the mere risk of gun prohibition by the CPSC in 1975 spurred Congress to take protective measures, the new Corzine-Kennedy bill suggests that citizens who are serious about the Second Amendment should also get serious about enforcing Article 1.

-- *America’s First Freedom*, May 2004

Bush-Evangelicals Ready for the Rapture

On March 25 NSC Near East and North African Affairs director Elliott Abrams sat down with the Apostolic Congress and massaged their

theological concerns, according to an email signed by Pentecostal minister Robert G. Upton and obtained by the *Village Voice*. Claiming to be "the Christian Voice in the Nation's Capital," the members vociferously oppose the idea of a Palestinian state. They fear an Israeli withdrawal from Gaza might enable just that, and they object on the grounds that all of Old Testament Israel belongs to the Jews. Until Israel is intact and Solomon's temple rebuilt, they believe, Christ won't come back to earth.

When asked about the confidential memo summarizing the off-the-record briefing his delegation received Upton barked, "Everything that you're discussing is information you're not supposed to have."

Abrams attempted to assuage their concerns by stating that "the Gaza Strip had no significant Biblical influence such as Joseph's tomb or Rachel's tomb and therefore is a piece of land that can be sacrificed for the cause of peace."

Three weeks after the confab, President George W. Bush reversed long-standing U.S. policy, endorsing Israeli sovereignty over parts of the West Bank in exchange for Israel's disengagement from the Gaza Strip.

In an interview with the *Voice*, Upton denied having written the memo, though it was sent out from an e-mail account of one of his staffers and bears the organization's seal. However Upton verified key details, including the number of participants in the meeting ("45 ministers including wives").

Affiliated with the United Pentecostal Church, the Apostolic Congress is part of an important and disciplined political constituency courted by recent Republican administrations. As a subset of the broader Christian Zionist movement, it has a lengthy history of opposition to any proposal that will not result in what it calls a "one-state solution" in Israel.

The Apostolic Congress dates its origins to 1981, when, according to its website, "Brother Stan Wachtstetter was able to open the door to Apostolic Christians into the White House." Apostolics, a sect of Pentecostals, claim legitimacy as the heirs of the original church because they, as the 12 apostles supposedly did, baptize converts in the name of Jesus, not in the name of the Father, Son, and Holy Spirit.

In the interview with the *Voice*, Pastor Upton claimed personal

responsibility for directing 50,000 postcards to the White House opposing the Road Map to the creation of a Palestinian state. Upton said, "Within a two-week period, getting 50,000 postcards saying the exact same thing from places all over the country, that really caused [President Bush] to backpedal on the Road Map."

When the *Voice* sought to confirm Upton's account of the meeting with the White House, it was directed to National Security Council spokesman Frederick Jones. When asked whose job it is in the administration to study the Bible to discern what parts of Israel were or weren't acceptable sacrifices for peace, Jones said that his previous statements had been off-the-record.

The Apostolic Congress is part of the increasingly Christian public face of pro-Israel activities in the United States. Don Wagner, author of the book *Anxious for Armageddon*, has been studying Christian Zionism for 15 years, and believes that the current hard-line pro-Israel movement in the U.S. is "predominantly gentile." Often, devotees work in concert with Jewish groups like Americans for a Safe Israel, or AFSI, which set up a mostly Christian Committee for a One-State Solution.

AFSI's executive director, Helen Freedman, confirms the increasingly Christian cast of her coalition. "We have many good Jews, of course," she says, "but they're in the minority." She adds, "The liberal Jew is unable to believe the Arab when he says his goal is to Islamize the West. . . . But I believe it. And evangelical Christians believe it."

She laughs off concerns that, for Christian Zionists, actual Jews living in Israel serve as mere props for their end-time scenario: "We have a different conception of what [the end of the world] will be like . . . Whoever is right will rejoice, and whoever was wrong will say, 'Whoops!'"

She's not worried, either, about evangelical anti-Semitism: "I don't think it exists," she says. She does say, however, that it would concern her if she learned the Apostolic Congress had a representative in Israel trying to win converts: "If we discovered that people were trying to convert Jews to Christianity, we would be very upset."

Kim Johnson, who works for Pastor Upton in Israel, doesn't call it converting Jews to Christianity. She calls it "Circumcision of the Heart" – a spiritual circumcision Jews must

undergo because, she writes in paraphrase of Jeremiah, chapter 9, "God will destroy all the uncircumcised nations along with the House of Israel, because the House of Israel is uncircumcised in the heart . . . [I]t is through the Gospel . . . that men's hearts are circumcised."

Apostolics believe that only 144,000 Jews who have not, prior to the Second Coming of Christ, acknowledged Jesus as the Messiah will be saved in the end times. For those who do not believe in this literal interpretation of the Bible – or for anyone who lives in Israel, or who cares about Israel, or whose security might be affected by a widespread conflagration in the Middle East, which is everyone – the scriptural prophecies of the Christian Zionists should be the least of their worries.

Instead, we should be worried about self-fulfilling prophecies. "Biblically," stated one South Carolina minister in support of the anti-Road Map campaign, "there's always going to be a war."

Don Wagner, an evangelical, worries that people who believe in the perpetual war scenario "are dominating the discourse now, in an election year." He calls the attempt to yoke Scripture to current events "a modern heresy, with cultish proportions."

It demonstrates, he says, "the absolute convergence of the neoconservatives with the Christian Zionists and the pro-Israel lobby, driving U.S. Mideast policy."

The problem is not that George W. Bush is discussing policy with people who press right-wing solutions to achieve peace in the Middle East, or with devout Christians. It is that he is discussing policy with Christians who might not care about peace at all – at least until the rapture.

-- Rick Perlstein, *Village Voice*, March 25, 2004

Americans would trade rights for security – experts

NEW YORK, June 7 (Reuters) In today's America, prisoners are held incommunicado for years, newspapers can't photograph soldiers' coffins returned from Iraq and the government can secretly track the books citizens read and the movies they watch.

But civil liberties can erode much further before Americans will say enough is enough, say experts in social history and political behavior.

Fear struck by the Sept. 11, 2001,

In the beginning of change the patriot is a scarce man, brave, hated and scorned. When his cause succeeds, however, the timid join him, for then it costs nothing to be a patriot. – Mark Twain

attacks helped launch the curtailment of civil liberties in the name of national security, and that fear keeps Americans willing to trade away rights for safety.

"We're at war," said Ken Weinstein of the Hudson Institute, a policy think tank. "That's why it doesn't bother us." Nor is there a clear "tipping point" to swing opinion the other way, added Karlyn Bowman, a polling expert at the American Enterprise Institute. "We don't seem to be anywhere near it at this time." Just after Sept. 11, 2001, polls showed two-thirds of Americans felt it would be necessary to give up some civil liberties to protect the nation. A year later, that number still stood at about half, Bowman said. "Most people don't see a broader threat," she said.

"The question is how tolerant can a tolerant society be to the intolerant who may seek to destroy it?" said Weinstein. "This is a fairly standard process in American history."

Historians cite the Alien and Sedition Acts of 1798, when a threat of war with France led to the law making it illegal to speak critically of the United States. Editors were arrested, and newspapers closed down.

In the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln suspended habeas corpus writs, which protect against unlawful imprisonment.

During World War One, fear of rising communism led to anti-immigrant sentiment, deportations and a violent crackdown on the labor movement. The 1917 Espionage Act prohibited anti-war activity and under the 1918 Sedition Act no one could "utter, print, write, or publish any disloyal, profane, scurrilous, or abusive language" about the government.

Cold War fears of communist infiltration helped fuel the powerful House Un-American Activities Committee and a "Red Scare" led to discrimination and detention. Under the Smith Act, one could not advocate overthrow of the U.S. government.

But, said Isaac Kramnick, professor of government at Cornell University, "all of those moments of fear pale in significance to 9/11 in reality and also in the way it's being exploited and manipulated by the Bush regime."

"Holding prisoners without charge and things of that sort are being justified in terms of the old argument of national security," he said.

But civil liberty issues such as prisoner's rights do not trouble the average American, experts say. People look the other way when their own personal life is not at stake.

Polls proposing telephone taps and e-mail monitoring evoke far more resistance from Americans, Bowman said.

For Americans to speak out about their civil liberties, she said, "They would have to see some widespread, wide-scale abuses in what they think are private and personal areas. Then again, they're not particularly attentive."

"Are we headed for a fascist dictatorship or a fascist regime with fascistic denials of civil liberties? I doubt it," said Kramnick. "Were the denials of civil liberties to really spread to the mainstream population and outside aspects of terrorism, then I think there would be a hue and cry which you do not hear now."

The question of how far is too far may be like pornography. Maybe you can't define it, but you know it when you see it.

Fobus Holsters Recalled

WASHINGTON (AP) -- A Pennsylvania company is recalling some 3,200 gun holsters because the strap can catch the trigger and cause the weapon to fire accidentally.

The Fobus USA Holster Division of First Samco Inc., of Southampton, Pennsylvania, is recalling its Fobus GLT holsters, designed for Series 17 and Series 19 Glock handguns fitted with a laser-sight light.

There have been eight reports of guns discharging as they were inserted into the holster. One person sustained a finger injury.

The recall, in cooperation with the Consumer Product Safety Commission, involves about 3,200 units with leather or plastic retention straps less than an inch wide.

The holsters are inscribed with "GL 2 EMZ," "FOBUS" and "Made in Israel." They were sold at gun accessory retailers nationwide and on the Fobus Web site between March 2002 and March 2003 for about \$45.

The holsters have since been redesigned with wider straps and a plastic tip that is too wide to be caught in the trigger guard.

Consumers should stop using the holsters immediately and bring them to a Fobus USA distributor for a free replacement holster or contact First Samco Inc. for instructions on how to return product for a replacement. Consumers can also send the recalled holster to Fobus USA in Southampton, and will be reimbursed for return shipping. -- AP June 9, 2004

The Ant and the Grasshopper

OLD VERSION:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter.

The grasshopper thinks the ant's a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away. Come winter, the ant is warm and well fed.

The grasshopper has no food or shelter, so he dies out in the cold.

Moral of the story: Be responsible for yourself!

MODERN VERSION:

The ant works hard in the withering heat all summer long, building his house and laying up supplies for the winter.

The grasshopper thinks the ant's a fool and laughs and dances and plays the summer away.

Come winter, the shivering grasshopper calls a press conference and demands to know why the ant should be allowed to be warm and well fed while others are cold and starving.

CBS, NBC, and ABC show up to provide pictures of the shivering grasshopper next to a video of the ant in his comfortable home with a table filled with food.

America is stunned by the sharp contrast. How can this be, that in a country of such wealth, this poor grasshopper is allowed to suffer so? Kermit the Frog appears on Oprah with the grasshopper, and everybody cries when they sing "It's Not Easy Being Green."

Jesse Jackson stages a demonstration in front of the ant's house where the news stations film the group singing, "We shall overcome." Jesse then has the group kneel down to pray to God for the grasshopper's sake.

Senators Tom Daschle & John Kerry exclaim in an interview with Peter Jennings that the ant has gotten rich off the back of the grasshopper, and both call for an immediate tax hike on the ant to make him pay his "fair share."

Finally, the EEOC drafts the "Economic Equity and Anti-Grasshopper Act," retroactive to the beginning of the summer. The ant is fined for failing to hire a proportionate number of green bugs and, having nothing left to pay his retroactive taxes, his home is confiscated by the government.

Hillary gets her old law firm to represent the grasshopper in a defamation suit against the ant, and the case is tried before a panel of federal judges.

The ant loses the case. The story ends as we see the grasshopper finishing up the last bits of the ant's food while the government house he is in, which just happens to be the ant's old house, crumbles around him because he doesn't maintain it.

The ant has disappeared in the snow.

The grasshopper is found dead in a drug related incident and the house, now abandoned, is taken over by a gang of spiders who terrorize the once peaceful neighborhood.

Kerry Faces Opposition from NRA

By Nedra Pickler

WASHINGTON (AP) - John Kerry owns a shotgun and a rifle, has taken time from the campaign trail to go hunting and relied on firearms during the Vietnam War. But the Democratic presidential candidate's fondness for his guns will not save him from a political assault by the National Rifle Association.

The 4 million-strong NRA could be an obstacle in Kerry's bid for the presidency because of the significance of the states where those people live. About one-fourth of NRA members live in West Virginia, Ohio, Florida, Michigan, Missouri and Pennsylvania - all battleground states with 101 of the 270 electoral votes needed to win the presidency.

The NRA says it doesn't matter how many guns the Massachusetts senator owns or how often he hunts because he nearly always votes against gun rights in the Senate. Kerry supports extending the ban on assault-type weapons and requiring background checks at gun shows. He opposes granting gun makers immunity from civil lawsuits.

"His anti-firearms record is among the very worst in American politics," said NRA executive vice president Wayne LaPierre.

Kerry called that claim "the phoniest argument I've ever heard in my life." He said he has been hunting since he was 12 and invited LaPierre to come along and see for himself.

It's unlikely Kerry and LaPierre will become hunting buddies anytime soon.

In the May edition of *America's 1st Freedom*, a magazine for NRA members, LaPierre wrote a lengthy article criticizing the Democrat.

The cover photo shows Kerry giving a thumbs-up, standing with fellow Senate Democrats Charles Schumer of New York, Dianne Feinstein of

California and Edward M. Kennedy of Massachusetts after they passed a 10-year ban on assault weapons. The cover reads, "John Kerry to Gun Owners: STICK IT!" and notes that Kerry's vote on the gun bill was one of only a few he's cast during the campaign this year.

The article portrays Kerry as a rich man who doesn't care about regular hunters and gun owners, but was born with a silver spoon in his mouth and has an heiress wife who gives to charities that support gun control.

In the 2000 presidential election, roughly half of voters were from gun-owner households, and they voted for Bush by 61 percent to 36 percent. The voters from non-gun-owner households, voted for Gore, 58-to-39.

Gore's aides acknowledged the organization's advertising, mailings and get-out-the-vote rallies hurt him, especially among pro-gun union members in swing states. Kerry's campaign is bracing for a similar fight.

"We're confident that John Kerry is a lifelong hunter, gun owner," said Kerry adviser Tad Devine.

Kerry made the same point on a campaign stop in West Virginia last month.

"If you told me today was the first day of turkey season, I would have been out hunting," he told mine workers.

LaPierre said the NRA will make another endorsement in September, and made it clear that it would be for Bush despite the organization's disagreement with his support for the ban on semiautomatic assault weapons. "I don't think there is any mystery about it given that John Kerry is the alternative," LaPierre said. [So much for principle. -- Ed.]

Kerry suggested the NRA is out of touch, noting that Bush's father resigned from the organization when a fund-raising letter signed by LaPierre referred to federal agents as "jack-booted government thugs." And, Kerry said, while law enforcement supported the assault weapons ban, the NRA opposed it.

Kerry told the AP, "I support the Second Amendment, and I have no intention nor do I know anybody who's trying to undo it." -- AP, May 21, 2004

Court says 911 call sufficient for search

TRENTON (AP) Law-enforcement officers do not need a warrant to search a home if someone there calls 911 -- even if the occupant tells them that no emergency or other

problem exists, the state Supreme Court has ruled.

The decision stems from the case of Gary N. Frankel, 45, a Monmouth County man who was charged with marijuana possession and operating a marijuana farm after a police officer entered his Freehold Township home on June 21, 1999.

The officer went there after someone at the house dialed 911 but did not say anything to the operator who handled the call.

The officer said Frankel appeared nervous while telling him that he lived alone and had not made the call. When the officer asked if he could look around the house, Frankel refused, but the officer entered anyway, saying he wanted to make sure there was no domestic violence victim or an injured person inside.

The officer then searched the home after calling for backup and police soon found marijuana on a tray, as well as marijuana plants, grow lights and an elaborate watering system in a room in the basement. A judge suppressed the evidence, saying the warrantless search was not justified, but Frankel was convicted at trial.

A state appellate court reversed the conviction, but the Supreme Court ruling restored the verdict and said police acted properly. In their 5-1 decision the justices said a 911 call "is tantamount to a distress call, even when there is no verbal communication over the telephone."

The majority opinion, written by Justice Barry Albin, cited the "emergency aid exception," noting that warrantless searches are generally considered invalid under both the state and federal constitutions unless they can be justified. However, it said neither constitution demands that police "stand by in the face of an imminent danger and delay potential lifesaving measures while critical and precious time is expended obtaining a warrant."

In his dissenting opinion, Justice John Wallace wrote that although the matter was a "close case," a warrantless search was not justified. -- *Home News Tribune* May 14, 2004

West Jersey Report

By a Jerseyman

Pres. Reagan has passed on at 93. I liked him better than "Slick Willie" and the Bushes! Reagan's Sec. of the Interior was James Watt which I don't like! National Heritage Areas started under Watt. This week legislation will put the New Jersey

Highlands under the control of a State commission. When the Highlands Conservation Act gets passed in the U.S. Senate the PA/NJ/NY/CT Highlands will be federalized under the U.S. Forest Service. In time a U.N. biosphere just like the N.J. Pinelands. With NGO Delaware and Raritan Greenway in Princeton pushing for the Sourland mountains of Hunterdon, Somerset and Mercer counties to be a U.N. Biosphere Reserve most of New Jersey will be a U.N. Biosphere with the entire state covered in Federal areas, trails and refuges!

On June 8 the Fish and Game Council had a public hearing on the black bear firearms hunt. I spoke in favor. There were many animal rights and enviros speaking against the hunt, hunting innocent wildlife, and allowing children under 18 to hunt. Some of the animal rights/enviros really got wild, calling hunters and trappers blood lust low life, waging war each year, on and on.

Back in February I wrote our Mercer County executive about holding a D-Day 60th anniversary ceremony to honor our D-Day vets, maybe at the Trenton Waterfront Baseball Park as was done in 1994, on the 50th anniversary. No response. I wrote again in April. No response. In early May I write the *Trentonian* on this, then 2 weeks before 6 June I receive word that a D-Day ceremony will be held 4 June in the Lawrence Twp. Library. I made up a bunch of flyers and informed two senior centers.

On June 4 I brought Erine Mattei to the library. Erine is 85 years old, who landed on D-Day in a half-track at 6 a.m. with the 747th Tank Bn assigned to the 29th Division. I brought my M-1 rifle, cased, into the library and sat by Erine and some other D-Day vets. When I uncased it and gave it to them they started to tell me about the M-1 and the war. I see the county exec's aide looking at me, and she's not too pleased!

Ten minutes go by and she asks me to come to the back of the library, M-1 and case in hand. Could I step outside? She has the police, and I am told to remove my rifle to my car and I can attend the ceremony.

I state there is no ammo in the rifle (the bolt is back), I have no ammo on me, this rifle is what these veterans carried, lived with and fought with, and I am re-uniting them with it.

I get "Take the gun to my car!"

Having Erine to take home I couldn't put up a defense, so I said "I would comply but felt this is wrong!" I

start re-casing the M-1 and I snap the bolt closed, that county exec's aide jumped back 5 feet! Ha! Ha!

Coming back from putting the M-1 in my vehicle one cop said to me, "I appreciate it." I frowned and said, "I don't!"

I tell you these gun banning liberals are too much!

In the third week of July the Million Mom March plans to be in front of the State House. I'll be there to counter-demonstrate.

Enough from me!

Address of Ebenezer Elmer to the Residents of Cumberland County, New Jersey, August 7, 1776, in Celebration of American Independence

No people under Heaven were ever favored with a fairer opportunity, of laying a sure foundation for future grandeur and happiness than we. But our future happiness or misery...will depend entirely upon ourselves. If actuated by principles of virtue and genuine patriotism, we make the welfare of our country the sole aim of all our actions; If we entrust none but persons of abilities and integrity, with the management of our public affairs; If we carefully guard against corruption and undue influence, in the several departments of government; If we are steady and zealous in putting the laws in strict execution; the spirit and principles of our new constitution...may be preserved for a long time; but if faction and party spirit, the destruction of popular governments, take place, anarchy and confusion will soon ensue, and we shall either fall an easy prey to a foreign enemy, or some factious and aspiring *Demagogue*...will spring up among ourselves, who, taking advantage of our political animosities, will lay violent hands on the government, and sacrifice the liberties of his country to his own ambitious and domineering humour.

--*A Documentary History*, NJ Historical Commission, 1975, pp. 225-226

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When the body of a people are altogether corrupt in their manners, the government is ripe for dissolution, because a republic must either preserve its virtue or lose its liberty.

-- Rev. John Witherspoon, President of the College of New Jersey, April, 1783

Muslims Blast Critics

By Michelle Malkin

The Council on American-Islamic Relations won't condemn

Muslim fanatics, but it has declared war on outspoken Americans who will.

CAIR, which calls itself "America's largest Islamic civil liberties group," has lately focused its wrath on talk radio which it feels is responsible for a dubious "sharp jump" in (self-reported) "Islamophobic hate crimes" in the United States. By manufacturing an anti-Muslim hate epidemic that doesn't exist, CAIR obfuscates its own suspicious role in fomenting anti-American extremism.

The most recent target of CAIR's campaign is Boston radio talk show veteran Jay Severin. On April 23, CAIR issued a press release headlined: "Boston Radio Host Says Kill All Muslims; Islamic Civil Rights Group Calls for Host's Termination." On April 25, the Boston *Globe* parroted the charges in a story that quoted CAIR spokeswoman Rabiah Ahmed accusing Severin of saying on his show, "I've got an idea, let's kill all Muslims."

Just one teensy problem with the story. It wasn't true. On April 27, the *Globe* was forced to admit that Severin never said "kill all Muslims." CAIR, however, has refused to admit the fabrication and continues to call for Severin's termination.

In Washington, D.C., CAIR took aim at talk show host and *JewishWorldReview.com* columnist Michael Graham for making an "implicit" call for violence against all Muslims and for advocating common-sense security profiling. Singling Graham out for criticism, CAIR announced a new initiative "designed to counter anti-Muslim hate on radio talk shows" called "Hate Hurts America." Like Severin, Graham refused to be intimidated.

"What CAIR does is try to portray all criticism of all Muslims everywhere as bigotry," Graham responded. "They singled me out because I said on the air (and have said in print as well) that Islam is a uniquely dangerous religion, that the religion itself needs a reformation much like those experienced by Catholicism and Mormonism, and that the one distinguishing attribute of 'moderate' Muslims is their reluctance to publicly criticize the actions of the Islamofascist extremists who continue to spread terror. Now, you might agree with me or not, but this is hardly bigotry. 'Stating the obvious' is a more apt description. But any criticism from an infidel like yours truly is unbearable to the folks at CAIR, and so they've launched their attack."

Radio personalities Paul Harvey and Dr. Laura have also come

under fire for expressing opinions about Islam and calling on Muslims to dissociate themselves from terrorists. Harvey caved in to CAIR's pressure after members of the group besieged advertisers with threats and complaints because the veteran broadcaster alluded to Islam as "a religion which encourages killing." The ever-feisty Dr. Laura stood her ground, refusing to apologize for advising a mother not to let her daughter attend a field trip to a local mosque unless it was "one that has done its best to rout out terrorists in its midst."

CAIR attacks the "hate-filled rhetoric" of talk show hosts, but as Middle East scholars Daniel Pipes, Robert Spencer and others have amply demonstrated, several of the group's past and present leaders have refused to criticize the hate-filled rhetoric -- and bloody acts of violence -- of terrorist organizations such as Hamas and Hezbollah. Three former CAIR officials have been indicted on charges of terrorism, money laundering or fraud. Most recently, Ismail Royer -- a former CAIR "communications specialist" who "wrote investigative pieces on anti-Muslim organizations" -- was sentenced to 20 years in prison for weapons convictions related to his participation in a network of militant jihadists centered in Northern Virginia.

CAIR publicity hounds remain uncharacteristically silent about Royer's conviction. Instead, they fulminate about the civil rights of Muslims being violated whenever someone offers even the mildest public dissent from Religion of Peace propaganda. These people won't rest until they have achieved the Al Jazeera-fication of America's airwaves.

U.N. -- Get Out of New York!

By Paul Johnson

2003 was a triumphant one for America. But much remains to be done to make the world a fairer, safer place. One problem: the UN. What's to be done about that nest of corruption, double standards and staggering incompetence? No use in rehashing

the UN's unrelieved record of failure, which in Africa alone has cost hundreds of thousands of lives. I am not suggesting, at this stage, that the U.S. should leave the organization (or disorganization) although that may well happen in time.

What I do suggest is that the U.S. should give the U.N. notice to quit. When the U.S. was the leader of a successful wartime coalition -- and the world wished it to continue in that role -- it made excellent sense to place UN headquarters in New York. But those days have long passed. America has accepted its world-policeman destiny, and the UN is merely a minor obstacle to the successful performance of that task. The place has become a mere theater of empty rhetoric and shameless deals supporting a growing tide of anti-semitism and racism and -- let us not be mealy mouthed -- state crime. It is a place where near-bankrupt dictatorships can sell their vote to the highest bidder.

It is also a place where well-connected playboy diplomats from the Third World can indulge in an expense-account lifestyle in one of the richest cities on earth, ignoring the pitiful poverty of their home countries and often using their diplomatic immunity to break the law. This is an insult to the dignity of the human race.

As the UN is now constituted, a far better location for it would be in a city near the gravitational center of the Afro-Eurasian landmass. There it would be close to the realities of the problems it ought to be tackling -- poverty; bad, cruel and corrupt governments; international lawlessness; civil wars. The place I'd suggest is Dar es Salaam (though I can think of a half-dozen other equally suitable venues). Having UN headquarters there would hugely reduce the cost of running it and its associated authorities from New York. It would also deter the playboy element that is one of the curses of the organization and help persuade both staff and the delegations to take their jobs seriously.

Personally, I fear the UN is

a lost cause, incorrigibly frivolous and corrupt and beyond reform. But such a move might conceivably give the UN the fundamental jolt it needs.

-- *Forbes*, February 2, 2004

Land of the Free, Home of the Slave

By Steven Greenhut

America is such a wonderfully free country that I thoroughly understand why the Bush administration, like the Clinton administration before it, is so eager to take our freedoms and spread them across the globe. Without the U.S. government, backwards peoples will have to labor on in their own delusions, never understanding what true liberty is all about.

I am so free. If I want to paint my house, or build a deck out back, or install a new air-conditioning system, I am free to call the building inspector and get his approval first. If I want to put a new toilet in the bathroom, I am free to buy only the low-flow toilets the government approves. I am free to buy a property near the beach, provided the government Coastal Commission approves whatever I want to do with that property. That approval might take decades, and the final thing that I build will be what the commissioners want there, not what I want, but I am free nonetheless.

I know I am free because this is America. And America is a free country -- the best one in the whole darned world. If you don't like our freedoms, you should move somewhere else.

Any other questions?
-- LewRockwell.com, September 18, 2003

* * *

Many obstacles confront the [public] school in its efforts at moral education. Prejudices of religion...negate the respect for human personality. -- Algernon D. Black; in *Educational Leadership*, May, 1964

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